

The Bethel Courier.

Volume XII, Number 2

Summer 1988

Bethel Historical Society



Dr. Moses Mason House, ca. 1895

THE DR. MOSES MASON HOUSE 175 YEARS OLD IN 1988

The Dr. Moses Mason House, Bethel's most famous residence, is 175 years old this year. Built in 1813, this Federal period structure, was the home of the town's most famous citizen, Dr. Moses Mason (1789-1866), physician, first Bethel postmaster, U.S. Congressman (1833-1837), public official and businessman. Now the headquarters of the Bethel Historical Society, which owns and operates a period house museum here, as well as research, office and meeting space facilities, this landmark with its distinctive fan doorway, contains outstanding Rufus Porter murals in the upper and lower front halls. These murals are the only ones open to the public on a regular basis in the State of Maine which are in their original state and location.

Furnished with furniture and artifacts from the period of Doctor and Mrs. Mason's lifetime (to 1869), all gifts from numerous generous donors, the house presents a revealing insight into the life and times of a prosperous inland Maine couple. On display are a number of items which were originally in the house as well as a fascinating collection of objects possessing strong local connections. Here, for example, is Dr. Mason's remarkable pictorial bookcase and his moose antler chair. Also of interest is a banjo clock (made in nearby Fryeburg in 1805) which was brought to Bethel in 1821 by the first lawyer William Frye. Chester Harding's portraits of Doctor Moses Mason and his wife, painted in the 1830s, still grace the formal parlor as well.

(continued on page 2)

REFLECTIONS OF A HALF CENTURY

(continued from the last issue)

by Leslie E. Davis

Marie and I were married at the home of Marie's parents in Locke Mills on Sunday, October 4, 1914 at noon by Rev. Joslin of Norway; only our families were present. We went to a cottage after the ceremony on Howard's Pond in Hanover for a week and from there we stayed at Irving's house in Portsmouth for a week or so since our house wasn't quite finished.

Marie and I started keeping house in a new house on Sparhawk Street on "Christian Shore." With the money I got out of the motorcycle and what Marie had saved up we managed to get enough furniture to make a start. We paid \$14 a month rent and it was really a nice little place. After we had been married a month or so I got another raise to \$12 a week, which was a big help. During that winter we both joined the Methodist Church in Portsmouth.

The summer before we were married, Marie worked in the office at Locke Mills for the E.L. Tebbetts Spool Company. During this time I was serving my apprenticeship as machinist in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. I studied some with an I.C.S. correspondence course in mechanical engineering, but didn't complete it. However, I got a lot of help from it.

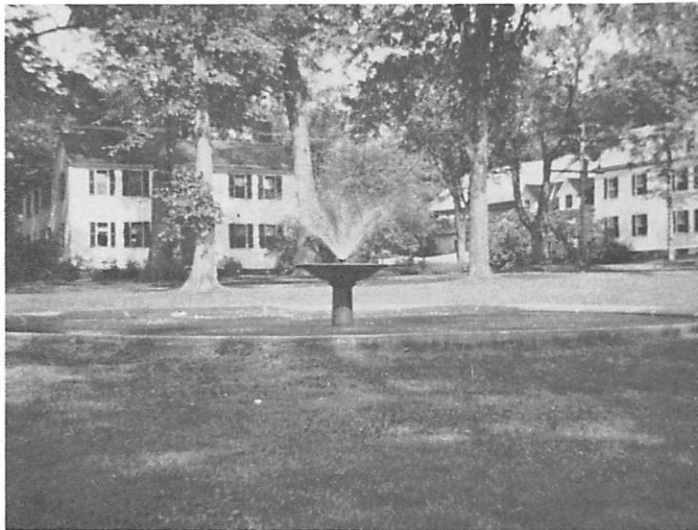
In 1913, in addition to my mechanical study I also became interested in Civil Service and took an examination in Boston in October of that year for the Railway Mail Postal Service, but didn't get any appointment from it that year as there were so many on the list ahead of me with higher rank. During the next

(continued on page 3)

(Dr. Mason House continued from page 1)

The Masons had no children so after Mrs. Mason's death in 1869, title to the house passed to a favorite niece, who lived here until her death in 1910. Her daughter married Tristram Durell and they resided here all their married life. Their only son Daniel was a lifelong resident as well. He was survived by his widow Ada, who died in 1971. They had no children.

Following Mrs. Durell's death, the Mason property was acquired by the William Bingham II Trust for Charity, which meticulously restored the building in 1972-73 and presented the structure to the Bethel Historical Society in 1974 for use as its headquarters. The property also contains the attached barn, which has been tastefully converted to provide space for Society meetings, exhibits, as well as office, research and storage space. Visitors to the museum and the Society's research facilities come from all parts of the nation and throughout the world.



View from the Bethel Common, 1950

199TH BIRTHDAY OF DR. MOSES MASON OBSERVED

On Sunday May 29, the 199th birthday of Dr. Moses Mason was observed with festivities that included the serving of punch and birthday cake, craft demonstrations and exhibits and a lecture on the history of the Doctor's house which this year is 175 years old. Once again the Doctor and his wife were portrayed by Ernest and Betty Perkins and members of the Society's Museum Committee hosted the event.

EDITOR'S CORNER

Since 1974, I have had the pleasure of residing in the Dr. Moses Mason House in the modern apartment created on the second floor of the ell during the restoration of the house in 1972-73. I did not know when I moved in that I had a tie to the Mason family, being a great-great-great grandson of Abigail Straw Hastings, sister and next door neighbor to Agnes Straw Mason, wife of Dr. Mason. It has been a pleasant time; the apartment is comfortable and convenient; best of all is the commute to the Society office. I never fail to appreciate the beauty of the house and its location. The Society is fortunate that Dr. Mason picked such a fine spot to build his house 175 years ago.

SRH

The Dr. Moses Mason House 1813-1988: Bethel Landmark For 175 Years



Dr. Moses Mason House Courtyard, ca. 1890



Dr. Moses Mason House Courtyard, ca. 1975

9th ANNUAL FAYE TAYLOR MEMORIAL ART SHOW HELD MAY 28

The ninth annual Faye Taylor Memorial Art Show was held on May 28 at the Dr. Moses Mason House. Several hundred entries from SAD #44 elementary (Grades 1-6) schools were received. Winners were: (Class I, Grades 1 & 2), First, Darcy Morse, Grade 1, Andover Elementary School, Second, Amber Brooke, Grade 2, Ethel Bisbee School, Third, Seth Pitcher, Grade 1, Ethel Bisbee School; (Class II, Grades 3 & 4), First, Anneliese Bass, Grade 4, Crescent Park School, Second, Tim Hebert, Grade 3, Woodstock Elementary School, Third, Eva Paul, Grade 3, Crescent Park School; (Class III, Grades 5 & 6), First, Phoebe Hausman-Rogers, Telstar Middle School, Grade 6, Second, Aaron Paul, Crescent Park School, Grade 5, Third, Joey McLain, Crescent Park School, Grade 5. Cash prizes, award certificates and ribbons were presented in each category. Judges this year were Arla Patch, Sandra Clement and Sue Taylor. Paintings by adult exhibitors Helen Morton, Richard Hosterman and Judy McLaughlin complemented the student exhibit. The show is supported in part by a donation from the Bethel Savings Bank and honors a founding member of the Society who was particularly interested in art for young people. Much appreciation is expressed to all those who made the show possible and to the Society's Art Committee for its hard work.

(L. E. Davis Memoirs continued from page 1)

six months I studied most of my spare time on the required subjects and got my first temporary assignment in December 1914. This was at North Station in Boston during the Christmas season which began about December 12 and lasted through Christmas week.

Fourth class mail or parcel post was inaugurated in either 1913 or 1914; it did open up additional work at the Railway Mail Service, which at that time paid \$900 annually for starting salary, which was more than master machinist pay of \$15 per week. So when my apprenticeship time was up, I went into the Railway Mail Service as a substitute clerk assigned to the 1st Division, which was all points north and east of Boston in New England.

During the next three years, I worked in the Railway Mail Service from about May 15 to October 15; I worked in the machine shop of the E.L. Tebbetts Spool Company at Locke Mills during the balance of the year.

The E.L. Tebbetts Spool Company built spool making machines in their own shop; they always had plenty of extra work as well as millwright repairs. It was a pretty satisfactory arrangement since I was getting experience in both jobs.

Marie and I moved back to Locke Mills from Portsmouth in the fall of 1915. We lived with her parents for a year or so as we were unable to find a satisfactory rent; it was here on April 8, 1916 that our son Richard was born.

Marie was attended by Dr. I.H. Wight of Bethel; he had to make the call with horse and wagon as automobiles were used at that time only during the summer months. At this time, practically all mothers had their babies at home as the possibility of getting them to the hospital in time was very uncertain. Marie's sister, Alma, a private duty nurse, came home and took care of her.

During the early part of 1916, I bought the first automobile I ever owned. This was a 1914 model Chevrolet called the Royal Mail roadster. I acquired it from E. Lester Tebbetts for \$137.50. I had purchased it new in 1914 but during the latter part of the summer of 1915 it began to give him a lot of trouble; by the early winter the motor wouldn't run at all.

There were no automobile repair shops as we know them today; if something went wrong with your automobile you took

(continued on page 4)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

During the summer months the Dr. Moses Mason House and grounds are a particularly attractive part of the Bethel Common area and the Broad Street Historic District. Both the building and the gardens are well-maintained and the stone walls that surround the property add to its charm.

The versatility of the grounds was demonstrated this summer when a heat wave made a cooler meeting area more desirable. The August monthly meeting was held on the back lawn where a pleasant breeze refreshed those who attended. This same area serves the Society well during Bethel's Mollycoddett Day and our own Sudbury Canada Days.

On this 175th anniversary of the construction of the Dr. Moses Mason House, it is a pleasure to gaze upon such a historic building and to tour its beautiful grounds. We are indeed fortunate to own such a resource and serve as its trustee for present and future generations.

Marvin Ouwinga



Persis Post

MEMBER PROFILE PERSIS POST

Born in Naugatuck, CT, Persis Post grew up in Waterbury, CT and on a farm in Wappinger Falls, NY. She attended local schools and received her B.S. from Columbia University Teachers College in 1936. She taught for forty years in Swartoutville, NY, Oxford, NY, West Orange, NJ and finally in Burlington, VT, where she was the demonstration teacher for the University of Vermont. Long active in teachers organizations and a former president of the Oxford County Retired Teachers, she is currently a member of Delta Kappa Gamma. She served as Sunday School Superintendent in Jericho, VT and on the District School Board there as well. An associate member of the West Parish Congregational Church, she also is active as a volunteer at the Bethel Library. She married Archibald Post in 1948 and she has two step-daughters, six grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Long active in the Society, she has served for a number of years as the head of the Special Projects Committee, which oversees refreshments for meetings and other special events. She has long been a faithful guide in the Society's museum and is a former member of the Board of Trustees. A life member since 1980, she also volunteers to assist with student groups.

Her hobbies include knitting and reading.

SOCIETY SALES DEPARTMENT

The Society maintains a selection of modestly priced gifts and historical publications. These may be ordered at the prices listed below. Maine residents should include 5% sales tax. Orders under \$10 should include \$1 for postage and handling; those over \$10 but under \$20 should include \$2 and all those over \$20 should include \$3 for postage and handling.

Moses Mason House Tile \$3.50
Stationery (package of ten sheets and ten envelopes) \$2 ea.

Moses Mason House
Summer House
Bethel Railroad Station
Bethel Covered Bridge

Booklets

"Bethel's Broad Street" 75¢
"The Family Farm" 75¢
"Made in Bethel" 75¢
"Dr. Moses Mason and His House" \$1
"Molly Ockett" \$2

Maps and Atlases

1880 Map of Bethel Hill \$2
1880 Map of Entire Town (Bethel) \$2
1878 Bird's Eye View of Bethel Hill \$1
1858 Atlas of Oxford County \$6.50

Tote Bag (Moses Mason Museum logo) \$7.50
Placemats, 4 Season (set of four) \$7.50

Special Editions

Bethel Citizen (1974) \$1
Indian Raid '81 \$1

Books

Russell, INDIAN NEW ENGLAND BEFORE THE MAYFLOWER \$11.95
William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF WOODSTOCK, MAINE \$19.95

B. G. Willey, INCIDENTS IN WHITE MOUNTAIN HISTORY \$25

Maxim & Lapham, HISTORY OF PARIS \$55

Holt, GRAND TRUNK LINES OF NEW ENGLAND \$24.95

D. B. Wight, WILD RIVER WILDERNESS \$4

Francis Parkman, THE GOULD ACADEMY STORY \$7.50

MAINE IN THE EARLY REPUBLIC \$29.95

BETHEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY COOKBOOK \$5

Thomas Hubka, BIG HOUSE, LITTLE HOUSE, BACK HOUSE
BARN: THE CONNECTED FARM BUILDINGS OF NEW ENGLAND Paper \$19.95. Cloth \$29.95

William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF NORWAY, MAINE \$55

M. F. King, ANNALS OF OXFORD \$35

Jean Lipman, RUFUS PORTER REDISCOVERED \$14.95

A TRUTHFUL LIKENESS: CHESTER HARDING AND HIS PORTRAITS \$25

Paula Wight, NEWRY PROFILES \$5

Eva Bean, EAST BETHEL ROAD \$50

R. H. Bennett, OXFORD COUNTY, MAINE \$18

William B. Lapham, HISTORY OF BETHEL, 1768-1890 \$45

F. W. Kilbourne, CHRONICLES OF THE WHITE MOUNTAINS \$20

T-Shirts

Moses Mason Museum (Adult) (S,M,L,XL) \$7

Moses Mason Museum (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14) \$6

Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Adult) (S,M,L,XL) \$7

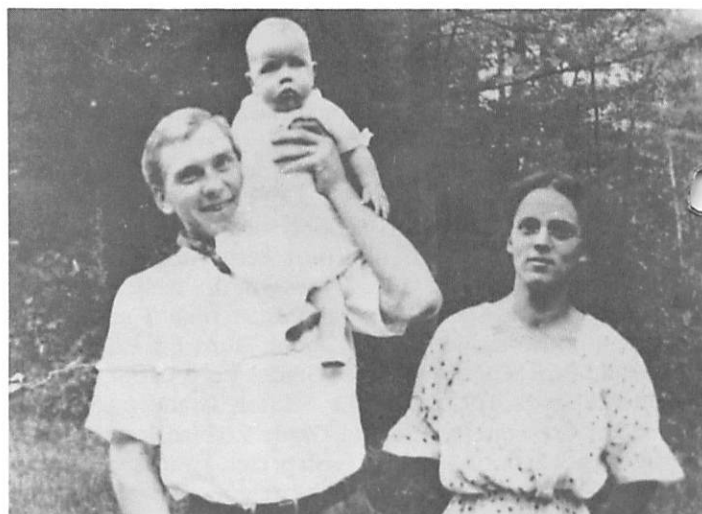
Sudbury Canada 1768-1796 (Child's) (4-6-8-10-12-14) \$6

Post Cards: Dr. Mason, Agnes Mason,

Moses Mason House 10¢ ea.

Bethel Historical Society Calendar, 1989 \$6

Members of the Bethel Historical Society are entitled to a 10% discount for purchases totaling \$10 or more. Please send orders to the Society at P.O. Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217. They will be sent by return mail.



Leslie E. Davis holding son Richard Lyman Davis poses with wife Marie Swan Davis, 1916.

Photo courtesy of Phyllis Davis Dock.

(L.E. Davis Memoirs continued from page 3)

it to a machinist. Often he was not too familiar with electrical ignition systems; sometimes he could fix them; usually he could not.

The car was in excellent shape as it was not very old, except for the trouble with the motor. I took the motor out of the chassis and dismantled it, finding the trouble to be a broken pin on the timer gear shaft. Consequently for a total cost of 15¢ plus my own labor was able to get it running nicely.

We used the car for about two and a half or three years; Marie learned to drive during the latter part of the summer of 1916. I sold it after having used it for about three years for \$300. It turned out to be a very satisfactory automobile deal.

I worked in the Railway Mail Service pretty steadily during the summer of 1916 and again for awhile during the Christmas season. During 1917 I had some very good assignments in the mail service between Boston and Portland, Boston to Bangor and Portland to Island Pond, Vermont. These jobs worked out very good for me as I got every second week off with straight time pay. Marie's father still owned the old homestead farm on Chandler Hill and we stayed up there quite often during my week-off periods.

In 1917, the United States got into World War I and the cost of living went up pretty rapidly in proportion to wages. By December of that year costs had risen to the point where my pay in the Railway Service didn't always cover my necessary expenses. So one night as I was going into Boston from Bangor at the end of a tour of duty I saw an advertisement in the newspaper for machinists and tool makers to work on defense work at 70¢ per hour with some overtime at time and a half. This looked pretty good as the Railway Mail Service was still paying only \$75 per month and there was no indication when it would be raised. I applied at the address given and hired out to go to Erie, Pennsylvania as a toolmaker at 70¢ per hour and a guarantee of working time to earn at least \$33 per week and a refund of my railway fare if I stayed a month or more.

I left Locke Mills about the sixth of December 1917 for Erie, arriving there on the morning of the eighth. It was a cold, disagreeable morning and snowing hard. Marie and Richard stayed with her parents at Locke Mills, and if the job worked out satisfactorily they were to come out later. It wouldn't have taken much persuasion on that morning I arrived in Erie to make me take the next train back East. I decided, however, to at least look the job and the plant over; I felt better after seeing the toolmakers shop where I was to work.

(continued on page 5)



View from the Bethel Common, ca. 1900

INFORMATION ON MAINE ARTISTS NEEDED

Mr. Gary W. Woolson, a bookseller in Hampden, Maine, is compiling a biographical dictionary of artists who were from Maine or who have worked in Maine. To this end, he is seeking any information regarding the following artists:

Frost, Francis Shedd (1825-1902) - painted at Mt. Desert 1856, Newry 1857-58, and Bethel 1858; painted a *View of Bethel* in 1858 and *A View of Newry* in 1858.

Greator, Eliza (Mrs.) (1820-1897) - in Bethel 1868.

Wheelock, Merrill G. (1822-1866) painted *White Mountains from Bethel* in 1859.

Anyone with information on any of the above should contact Mr. Woolson at: R.F.D. 1 Newburgh Box 1576, Hampden, Maine 04444: (207) 234-4931.

BUSINESS/CORPORATE SPONSORS

Bethel Furniture Stock — Bethel Inn & Country Club — Bethel Savings Bank — Bethel Spa Motel and Shops — Boise Cascade — Contel of Maine — Goodwin's Inc. — Ross Joly Realty, Inc. — Ralph Merrill Plumbing & Heating — Prims Rexall Pharmacy #2 — Shearwater Design — Sunday River Ski Resort — Western Maine Supply — Williams Co. — Gillies Realty.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

ANITA FERRAND, Gilead, a sustaining member since 1976, is retired. WILLIAM W. HOWE, Rockville, MD, a 1938 graduate of Gould Academy, is retired. ARTHUR and BETTY ANN SMITH, Bethel, are retired. MICHAEL S. STOWELL, Lovettsville, VA, a 1958 graduate of Gould Academy, is a native of West Bethel. JANE CHAPIN SULLIVAN, Portland, a 1938 graduate of Gould Academy, is a retired nurse.

(L.E. Davis Memoirs continued from page 4)

I went to work the next morning at the American Brake Shoe and Foundry Company in the plant where they made 155mm shell cases for the government. They put me to work making jigs and templates for the shell production machinery.

After I had been on this job for about a week, I began to get bored with so much time on my hands during the part of the day I was not working; I took a job in another section of the same plant as machinist and they put me to work on the breach block mechanism of the small field gun which they manufactured for the U.S. Army (a 155mm howitzer) so now I had my time pretty much taken up: an eight hour shift in the tool shop from 7 A.M. to 3 P.M. and from 3 P.M. to 11 P.M. in the gun plant. I did make pretty good pay as a result of these long hours, about \$66 to \$72 per week.

I worked this schedule for about a month and by that time was pretty anxious to see my family. So I hired a furnished house. It cost me \$50 a month rent and had Marie and Richard come out to live with me.

After they had been there a short time, the company offered me a foreman's job in the gun shop at \$45 per week. I was then able to drop the toolmakers job in the shell making plant and quit the long days.

(continued on page 6)

(L.E. Davis Memoirs continued from page 5)

All manufacturers on defense work needed more workmen than they were getting so I had my sister Gladys and her husband, Russell Swan, come out in February to work; as the house we rented was a big one, they lived with us. They stayed only about two months and went back in early April. About the first of May 1918 we also got rather homesick for Maine so we decided to go back as well.

I had saved up between \$300 and \$400 during the winter so I bought an old second hand Overland automobile and we started for New England.

(to be continued)

DURELL'S Tourist Home



NEAR
BETHEL INN
•
Phone 824-2963
•
Just Off Routes
2 - 26 - 5 - 35
BETHEL
Maine

Dr. Moses Mason House as Durell's Tourist Home, 1930s.

BOOK REVIEW

Pictorial History of Paris, Maine: A Small New England Shiretown, compiled by Jeannette Clifford, Ben B. Conant, Charles E. Johnson, Marguerite T. Johnson and Thomas B. Johnson. Paris, Maine: Paris Cape Historical Society, 1987. 96 pp.

Writing in the preface to this most interesting published collection of historic photographs, Thomas B. Johnson states that the book "does not purport to be a comprehensive photographic history of the town . . ." Nevertheless, readers and local historians interested in the past of Oxford County's seat of government would do well to examine this short, but well-conceived pictorial record of the town of Paris.

Settled in the early 1780s, incorporated as a town in 1793, and made county seat in 1805, Paris has long been a local center of culture, manufacturing, and politics. Under the categories of architecture, people, churches and religion, schools, and business and industry, members of the Paris Cape Historical Society (from whose collections came many of the views used in the book) take the reader on a journey through Paris's numerous villages (including Paris Hill and West Paris, both of which now have their own historical organizations) from the mid-19th century to near the present. And unlike some similar volumes on Maine towns recently issued, this book includes a generous amount of text to accompany each photograph, placing in perspective both the people and places highlighted.

As the bicentenary of Bethel's incorporation approaches in 1996, our own historical society would do well to emulate the efforts of the Paris Cape organization. Indeed, Bethel's past can be said to resemble, in many ways, its neighboring shiretown to the south. Perhaps, if we are lucky, a second volume of photographs of Paris scenes will be published before that town's 200th anniversary in 1993.

Randall H. Bennett
Curator of Collections, BHS



Dr. Moses Mason House, following restoration in 1974



Rufus Porter murals in hall of Mason House before restoration, 1972.

IN MEMORIAM

Died in Nashua, NH, Clarence A. Bartlett, life member since 1978.

Died in Norway, Clifford Ellis, life member since 1980.

Died in Norway, Cynthia Tiffany Gotjen, life member since 1982.

BETHEL CIVIL WAR SOLDIERS

**Compiled by Nancy H. Mercer
(enlistment age in parenthesis)**

Horace W. Allen (23), Newell B. Annas (30), Andrew J. Ayer (28), James C. Ayer (28), James E. Ayer (23), Henry C. Barker (21), John M. Barker (18), Charles S. Bartlett (22), Elhanan R. Bartlett (18), Ephraim C. Bartlett (21), Franklin C. Bartlett (26), James C. Bartlett (18), Levi N. Bartlett (19), Orrin D. Bartlett (23), William C. Bartlett (27), Arthur M. Bean (18), Barzilla K. Bean, Jr. (25), Edgar F. Bean (18), Elmer J. Bean (21), Farnham L. Bean (18), Freeborn G. Bean (18), Ira W. Bean (21), John E. Bean (18), Joseph W. Bean (18), Peter T. Bean (20), Rueben B. Bean (38), Sylvanus M. Bean (18), Timothy H. Bean (21), Timothy M. Bean (21), Lewis C. Beards (18), William A. Beavins (18), Stephen T. Beman (42), Fernando S. Bennett (34), Stillman Blodget (18), George M. Black (19), Lawson S. Black (18), Eli G. Brown (18), James Brown (18), Josiah A. Brown (18), Orrin or Owen S. Brown

(20), Washington F. Brown (30), William H. Brown (21), John F. Bryant (36), Varano G. Bryant (22), Charles Buck (21), George G. Burk (20), Charles C. Burt (25), Henry J. Butterfield (21), Warren C. Carney (23), Augustus M. Carter (23), Abial Chandler, Jr. (24), Moses R. Chandler (30), Perry Chandler (30), Albion C. Chapman (34), Algernon S. Chapman (31), James C. Chapman (30), John S. Chapman (30), Joseph T. Chapman (18), Milton W. Chapman (31), David W. Clark (19), Archy S. Cole (21), George Collins (?), Dustin A. Cook (21), Newell Cook (23), John Cooper (31), Alexander Cross (19), Jesse A. Cross (24), Sidney T. Cross (24), Moses Cummings (27), Gardiner W. Dalrymple (35), Levi W. Dollof (27), Clark S. Edwards (37), David A. Edwards (29), George F. Ellingwood (30), Isaac W. Estes (23), James L. Estes (27), Joshua P. Estes (19), Nathaniel S. Estes (23), Stephen Estes, Jr. (41), Washington N. Estes (21), Zenas C. Estes (19), Stephen L. Ethridge (22), James M. Evans (28), Edwin Farrar (25), Charles W. H. Farwell (21), Sereno P. Farwell (26), Hiram W. Fifield (25), Benjamin Freeman (?), Charles H. Freeman (14), John M. Freeman (19), Nathan S. Freeman (21), Albert P. Friend (23), Joseph U. Fry (22), William C. Frye (22), Henry P. Gates (23), Frederick O. Gerrish (18), Howard Gerrish (18), J. Woodman Gerrish (38), Granville H. Glines (20), Edward Goddard (44), Robert B. Goddard (18), Howard Gould (19), Henry M. Grey (18), Adelbert Grover (23), Albert W. Grover (21), Elbridge G. Grover (26), Hazen W. Grover (18), John Grover, Jr. (44), Leander G. Grover (20), Robbins B. Grover (21), Simon Grover (18), William L. Grover (21), Francis O. Hall (18), George P. Hall (25), James W. Hall (25), Joseph B. Hammond (36), Cuvier G. Harden (18), Ensworth T. Harden (21), George W. Harden (22), Orlando E. Harden (18), Albion O. Harriman (18), George W. Haskell (24), Gideon A. Hastings (40), Clement S. Heath (39), Austin W. Hobart (32), David T. Hodsdon (25), George Holmes (42), James P. Holt (22), Stephen E. Howard (21), Charles W. Howe (18), George E. Howe (18), Abel E. T. Hutchins (20), Sullivan R. Hutchins (27), Aaron F. Jackson (21), Ezekiel E. Jackson (25), Ira O. Jordan (20), Ithiel S. Kenerson (23), David C. Kennerson (22), Ithiel H. Kennerson (21), Gustavus M. Kimball (19), Melville



EAST BETHEL SCHOOL 1927-28

First Row: Freda Harrington Edmunds (1915-), Ellen Burns Coffin (1917-), Leonard Tyler (1915-), Nellie Harrington Olson (1917-), Willard Farwell (1916-1988), Harris Tyler (1917-1982)

Second Row: Nannette Foster Crockett (1914-1975), Doris Farrar Merrill (1915-), Rose Billings Smith (1915-1964), Dora Greenwood Murphy, Joseph Holt (1915-1988), Eugene Burns (1916-1987), Elizabeth Foster (1913-1951), Agnes Howe Haines (1915-)

Third Row: Pauline Harrington Smith (1914-), Raymond Bartlett (1913-), Marion Skillings Coolidge, teacher (1907-1968)

C. Kimball (21), Moses F. Kimball (36), Abijah Lapham (18), Amos E. Lapham (24), Charles Lapham (24), Charles L. Lapham (23), John E. Lapham (18), Charles A. or E. Locke (23), Charles C. Locke (23), James Locke, Jr. (18), John Mason (35), Sylvester Mason (45), Edmund Merrill (29), Joseph T. Merrill (32), Samuel H. Merrill (34), Solon H. Mills (19), Francis Mitchell (18), Alonzo D. Morgan (19), Frank E. Needham (19), James Nutting (23), Oliver Y. Nutting (32), Joseph L. Oliver (26), George W. Peabody (18), Thomas Spencer Peabody (20), Charles F. Penley (29), Reuben H. Penley (36), Otis Peverly (22), Lewis Powers (26), Lowell B. Pratt (30), Charles H. Putnam (21), Francis N. Putnam (20), Nelson Rice (28), Albert B. Richardson (23), William Richardson (25), Aurelius A. Robertson (23), Solon Robertson (22), Stephen S. Robertson (18), Washington B. Robertson (33), O'Neil W. Robinson, Jr. (37), Dwight C. Rose (34), Asbury T. Rowe (23), Frank Rowell (35), Michael Rowley (18), Ceylon

(continued on page 8)

SOCIETY OFFICERS AND TRUSTEES

Marvin Ouwinga, President; Jane Hosterman, Vice President; Charles F. Raymond, Secretary and Clerk of the Trustees; Mary C. Keniston, Treasurer; Trustees: Donald S. Brown, Lynda H. Chandler, Alden T. Kennett, Margaret Joy Tibbetts, Sylvia Wight

Join the Bethel Historical Society dedicated to preserving and interpreting the local past.

Membership in the Society entitles you to:

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) free admission to the museum | (5) quarterly publication |
| (2) special discounts at museum store | (6) reduced course fees |
| (3) preferred rate for meeting room rental | (7) voting rights in the Society |
| (4) special library and archival privileges | (8) special invitations to Society occasions |

(Please Print)

Name

Address

Signature

Please check appropriate category and send your remittance to: Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217 (effective Jan. 1, 1987)

----- Sustaining (Individual) \$5

----- Contributing \$15

----- Patron \$30

----- Benefactor \$40.00

----- Students (under 18 years) \$2

----- Senior (over 55 years) \$3

----- Life over 55 years \$50.00 single

----- Life over 55 years \$75.00 couple

----- Life under 55 years \$100.00 single

----- Life under 55 years \$150.00 couple

----- Individual preference (any amount over \$5)

----- Corporate \$50

A TRIP TO WEST BETHEL

The register of deeds, clerk of courts and register of probate went to West Bethel a few days ago, and were highly entertained by A. S. Bean, Esq., the lumber king of Oxford County, and his family.

On the arrival of the train these county officials found an excellent dinner prepared for them, to which they did ample justice. This over, they seated themselves in a covered carriage drawn by two horses, the host himself holding the "ribbons." They were taken to the farm of Mr. Bean on the road toward Mason, and driven across it and up the side of a hill to a trout pond. It was three-quarters of a mile across one field where about 200 tons of hay had been cut this year. The whole length of the road is about a mile and a half and is as good as any town road. All the water courses are bridged. It was a fine drive and all enjoyed it hugely. Mr. Bean is clearing up several acres for cultivation and for pasturage.

This farm was formerly two, and the land is in Bethel and Fryeburg Academy Grant. The trout pond is in the latter. Near this beautiful sheet of water surrounded by lofty hills covered with wood and timber, the greater part of which is owned by Mr. Bean, he proposes next year to erect a summer cottage. The best farming land is on the stream which flows into the Androscoggin River. There is no more productive land in Maine. After they had looked over the farm Mr. Bean took the party to his mill in Mason, passing the former home of the register of deeds.

Returning from Mason the party was shown over the premises at West Bethel, and a very large tract of timber was shown them across the river, which Mr. Bean had recently purchased. He had long contemplated securing it. At last the opportunity presented itself, but it was hinted that it took a long drive in the night and skillful maneuvering to close up the affair. Anyhow Mr. Bean is so well pleased with his purchase that he would not sell it for twice what he paid. Mr. Bean runs a store and a hotel besides a spool factory at West Bethel. He could not do this, however, but for the assistance of his wife and her sister, who are equally as good managers as Mr. Bean himself. Everything about his premises is in apple pie order and runs like clockwork. He has a large number of hogs and pigs, some of which would tip the beam when dressed, at 500 pounds. He slaughters and disposes of one a week. Mr. Bean started in life a poor boy with nothing but a sound constitution

Published quarterly by the Bethel Historical Society, Stanley R. Howe, Editor. Please address all inquiries and suggestions to Editor, Bethel Historical Society Publications, Box 12, Bethel, Maine 04217.

ISSN 0749-9108

and a larger share of "horse" sense than most men possess. He has succeeded beyond anything his earlier notions had conceived. He is now the largest tax payer in Bethel, Mason, Albany, and the Fryeburg Academy Grant. Mr. Bean is a public spirited citizen and is building a church which he will give above the foundation to the Union Church Society of this village. Any community is fortunate to have such a man in it.

OXFORD DEMOCRAT, October 27, 1896

(Bethel Civil War Soldiers continued from page 7)

Russell (40), Lorenzo D. Russell (24), Austin W. Ryerson (18), Charles B. Ryerson (19), Jerome O. Sanborn (24), Simeon W. Sanborn (29), Orson H. Sawtelle (38), Bethuel S. Sawyer (28), Daniel W. Scribner (24), Wainsburg B. Seavey (30), Thomas S. Sims (18), Joseph H. Skillings (21), Ferdinand A. Smith (18), George W. Smith (31), Osmyn Smith (31), Charles J. Stearns (20), Daniel M. Stearns (22), Edward P. Stearns (20), Edward N. Stowell (20), Martin A. Stowell (22), Edward G. Sturgis (29), Marcus E. Swan (18), John M. Swift (31), Alfred M. Ture (18), Adelbert B. Twitchell (24), Albert S. Twitchell (23), Austin F. Twitchell (18), Charles J. Twitchell (23), Fordyce B. Twitchell (18), Ozmon F. Twitchell (22), William L. Twitchell (19), Walter Upfold (21), Henry Vaillancourt (19), John B. Walker (27), Milo C. Walker (18), Leonidas West (18), Harlan P. Wheeler (18), E. Mellen Wight (21), Jarvis S. Wight (19), Cyrus M. Wormell (24), John S. Wormell (19), Cornelius M. York (21), Welloughby R. York (25), Aurelius L. Young (20), George H. Young (26).

The average enlistment age for Bethel soldiers was 24 years. Single men numbered 160 and there were 63 married men. In some cases marital status was not determined. Twenty six Bethel soldiers died of wounds or disease; twenty four were wounded; six were killed in action. Forty soldiers became sick and twelve were prisoners of war. Nine men deserted their units and two were absent without leave; twenty four were discharged for disability; one soldier was missing in action.

The Bethel Historical Society
P.O. Box 12
Bethel, Maine 04217

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

PERMIT NO. 8
BETHEL, MAINE
04217

PRESERVATION

THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE
NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION